



Legislative Bulletin.....July 21, 2004

Contents:

- H.R. 4840**—Tax Simplification for America's Job Creators Act
- H.R. 4841**—Tax Simplification for Americans Act
- H.R. 4864**—Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004, Part III
- H.Res. 647**—Supporting the goals of National Marina Day and urging marinas to continue providing environmentally friendly gateways to boating
- H.R. 3884**—Hipolito F. Garcia Federal Building and United States Courthouse Building Designation Act
- H.R. 4294**—Judge William B. Bryant Annex to the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Building and United States Courthouse Building Designation Act
- H.R. 4056**—Commercial Aviation MANPADS Defense Act of 2004
- S. 2362**—A bill to authorize construction of a Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory instrumentation support control building and associated site development on Kitt Peak, Arizona
- H.R. 4011**—North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004
- H.Res. 652**—Urging the Government of the Republic of Belarus to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for its parliamentary elections in the fall of 2004
- H.R. 4660**—To amend the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 to extend the authority to provide assistance to countries seeking to become eligible countries for purposes of that Act
- H.Con.Res. 418**—Recognizing the importance in history of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Japan
- H.Con.Res. 436**—Celebrating 10 years of majority rule in the Republic of South Africa
- H.Con.Res. 469**—Condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994

Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 1

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$497 million over five years*

Static Effect on Revenue: H.R. 4840 will save taxpayers \$1.2 billion over 10 years

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 4

** Does not include cost of Surface Transportation extension, which is unavailable.*

H.R. 4840—Tax Simplification for America's Job Creators Act (Crane)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 21st, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4840 would extend the increase of the small business expensing cap for two years (through the end of 2007), index for inflation (to the nearest \$100,000 increment) the current-law \$5 million limit on gross receipts for purposes of using the cash method of accounting (which is widely regarded as less complicated than the accrual method of accounting), and clean up parts of the federal tax code by eliminating dozens of expired, outdated, or otherwise inoperative tax provisions.

Additional Background: The enhanced section 179 small business expensing tax relief was included in the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-27). In 2006, without further congressional action, the section 179 small business-expensing cap (i.e. the amount of certain purchases of capital that small businesses can immediately deduct when calculating their tax liabilities) will decrease from \$100,000 to \$25,000 annually, and the definition of a small business will decrease from \$400,000 to \$200,000. That is, without H.R. 4840, taxes on small businesses will increase significantly in 2006.

To see what other tax increases will automatically occur in the next few years without congressional action, visit this RSC webpage:

<http://johnshadegg.house.gov/rsc/Impending%20Tax%20Increases--Feb%202004.pdf>

Committee Action: On July 15, 2004, the bill was referred to the Ways & Means Committee, which took no official action on it.

Administration Position: The Administration supports H.R. 4840.

Cost to Taxpayers: A one- and five-year revenue estimate is not yet available.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

Outside Organizations: Americans for Tax Reform and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce both have expressed strong support for H.R. 4840.

RSC Staff Contact: Paul S. Teller, paul.teller@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9718

H.R. 4841—Tax Simplification for Americans Act (Burns)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 21st, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4841 would allow taxpayers with up to \$100,000 in taxable income (including taxable interest) to use the simplified tax forms: 1040EZ and 1040A. This cap would be indexed for inflation starting in 2005 (rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10,000). Currently, taxpayers with no more than \$50,000 in taxable income or \$1,500 in taxable interest can use such forms.

The bill would also implement the “birthday rule” to determine an individual’s age for tax purposes. That is, under this bill, a person would be considered to turn one year older on the day of his or her birthday—not on the day *before* the birthday (the IRS used this date for certain tax provisions last year).

The “Head of Household” filing status would be changed to read “Single Head of Household” to clarify that the applicable provisions apply to single taxpayers with dependents.

Lastly, H.R. 4841 would clean up parts of the federal tax code by eliminating various expired, outdated, or otherwise inoperative tax provisions.

Committee Action: On July 15, 2004, the bill was referred to the Ways & Means Committee, which took no official action on it.

Administration Position: The Administration supports the concepts behind H.R. 4841.

Cost to Taxpayers: The Joint Committee on Taxation reports that H.R. 4841 would not affect revenues.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

Outside Organizations: Americans for Tax Reform strongly supports this legislation and may include it in its annual ratings of Congress.

RSC Staff Contact: Paul S. Teller, paul.teller@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9718

H.R. 4864—Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004, Part IV (Young of Alaska)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, July 21st, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. The last (one-month) transportation extension, H.R. 4635, passed the House 418-0 on June 23, 2004.

Summary: H.R. 4864 would extend for **two** additional months (through September 30, 2004) highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (112 Stat. 116). Funding levels would be proportionally tied to the appropriations in the Transportation, Treasury, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for FY2004.

Background: On September 24, 2003, the House passed (by voice vote) a temporary extension of surface transportation programs until February 29, 2004. The President signed the extension into law (Public Law 108-88) on September 30, 2003. To see the RSC Legislative Bulletin on this previous extension, visit this webpage: Since then, two two-month extensions and one one-month extension have been signed into law. The most recent extension expires on July 31, 2004.

Committee Action: H.R. 4864 was referred to the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, the Resources Committee, the Science Committee, and the Ways & Means Committee on July 20, 2004. No committee officially considered the legislation.

Administration Position: The Administration supports a permanent reauthorization of TEA-21 at a funding level of \$256 billion over six years and has threatened to veto a more expensive bill: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/legislative/sap/108-2/s1072sap-s.pdf>

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO cost estimate for H.R. 4864 is not yet available. CBO estimated that the last two-month extension (H.R. 4219) would actually DECREASE contract authority (a mandatory form of budget authority) by \$624 million each fiscal year relative to the baseline starting this fiscal year and continuing for the next ten years.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Paul S. Teller, paul.teller@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9718

**H.Res. 647—Supporting the goals of National Marina Day and urging
marinas to continue providing environmentally friendly gateways to boating
(Deal)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 21st, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 647 resolves that the House:

“(1) supports the goals of National Marina Day; and

“(2) urges that the marinas of the United States continue to provide environmentally friendly gateways to boating for the people of the United States.”

Additional Background: The Marina Operators Association of America has designated August 14, 2004 as “National Marina Day” to increase awareness among citizens, policymakers, and elected officials about the many contributions that marinas make to communities. The United States is home to more than 12,000 marinas.

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on May 18, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, but was not considered.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize any expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630

**H.R. 3884—Hipolito F. Garcia Federal Building and United States
Courthouse Building Designation Act (*Gonzalez*)**

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 21st, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3884 would designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 615 East Houston Street in San Antonio, Texas, as the “Hipolito F. Garcia Federal Building and United States Courthouse.”

Additional Background: Judge Garcia was born December 4, 1925 in San Antonio, Texas. After serving in the Army from 1943 to 1945, Judge Garcia attended St. Mary's University School of Law, where he graduated in 1951. In 1952, he became the assistant criminal attorney for Bexar County, Texas. Judge Garcia was appointed as a Judge to the County Court in 1964 and State District Court in 1975. In 1981, President Carter named Judge Garcia to the United

States District Court for the Western District of Texas. Hipolito Garcia passed away January 12, 2002, in Austin, Texas.

Committee Action: H.R. 3884 was introduced on March 3, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The committee reported the bill by voice vote on May 12, 2004.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a building renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, in House Report 108-557, cites Article I, Section 8, but fails to cite a specific clause.

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630

H.R. 4294—Judge William B. Bryant Annex to the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Building and United States Courthouse Building Designation Act (Norton)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 21st, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4294 would designate the annex to the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Building and United States Courthouse located at 333 Constitution Ave., NW in Washington, D.C., as the “Judge William B. Bryant Annex to the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Building and United States Courthouse.”

Additional Background: Judge William B. Bryant was appointed to the United States District Court in August 1965, and took senior status in January 1982. He served as Chief Judge from March 1977 to September 1981. He graduated from Howard University, receiving an A.B. in 1932, and from Howard University Law School, receiving an LL.B. in 1936. Judge Bryant was also the first African American Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia.

Committee Action: H.R. 4294 was introduced on May 5, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which did not consider the bill.

Cost to Taxpayers: Because the annex is still under construction, there would be no cost associated with this resolution to name it.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is not available.

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630

H.R. 4056—Commercial Aviation MANPADS Defense Act of 2004 (Mica)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 21st, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4056 encourages the President to pursue international diplomatic and cooperative efforts to limit the availability, transfer, and proliferation of man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) worldwide and to assure the destruction of excess, obsolete, and illicit stocks of MANPADS. No later than 180 days after the date of enactment, the President would have to report to Congress on these efforts, and the Secretary of State would have to provide annual status updates. The President is also encouraged to “pursue strong programs to reduce the number of MANPADS worldwide” and is authorized “such sums as may be necessary” for that purpose.

The bill also requires the Federal Aviation Administration to establish a process for conducting airworthiness and safety certification of missile defense systems for commercial aircraft that have been certified as “effective and functional” by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The Secretary of DHS is required to submit a report to Congress, no later than one year after enactment, describing DHS’s plans to secure airports and aircraft from MANPADS attacks. As part of this report, DHS would have to conduct vulnerability assessments for airports and develop contingency plans in the event intelligence is received indicating a high risk of MANPADS attacks on aircraft.

Additional Background: Man-portable air defense systems, or MANPADS, are surface-to-air missile systems designed to be portable and fired by a single individual. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure estimates that there are likely over 700,000 MANPADS worldwide and that at least 27 “non-state” or terrorist groups have these weapons.

Committee Action: H.R. 4056 was introduced on March 30, 2004, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on International Relations. The Aviation Subcommittee approved the bill on April 29, 2004, by voice vote and the full Transportation Committee reported the bill by voice vote to the House on May 12, 2004. The International Relations Committee discharged the bill on June 23, 2004.

Cost to Taxpayers: The Congressional Budget Office estimates that H.R. 4056 would have no significant impact on the federal government.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, in House Report 108-565, cites Article I, Section 8, but fails to cite a specific clause.

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630

S. 2362—A bill to authorize construction of a Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory instrumentation support control building and associated site development on Kitt Peak, Arizona (Senator Cochran)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 21st, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 2362 would authorize \$1 million for fiscal year 2005 for the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to develop the site for a Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory instrumentation support control building, including the installation of necessary utilities and equipment housings, and to construct such building on the site for the purpose of supporting the collaborative Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System (VERITAS) project on Kitt Peak near Tucson, Arizona.

Additional Background: VERITAS is an uncompleted series of special ground-based telescopes that detect gamma rays (the detection of which usually has to be done from space). Objects that emit gamma rays (rays on the electromagnetic spectrum—like visible light, radio waves, and X-rays) are very interesting to astrophysicists because high-energy gamma rays are associated with supernova (exploding stars), pulsars, quasars, and black holes—some of the most mysterious phenomena in the universe. The emission of high-energy gamma-rays from cosmic objects always implies the presence of extreme physical conditions—high magnetic and electric fields, shock waves, cataclysmic explosions, etc. Often, the only way to *directly* probe these extreme conditions is via gamma rays.

VERITAS is funded by the Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, the Smithsonian Institution, and the governments of Canada, Ireland, and the United Kingdom.

To learn more about gamma rays and VERITAS, visit this webpage:
http://veritas.sao.arizona.edu/VERITAS_science.html

Committee Action: On June 14, 2004, the Senate passed the resolution by unanimous consent. On June 16th, the resolution was referred to the Committee on House Administration, which took no official action on the resolution.

Cost to Taxpayers: The bill would authorize appropriations of \$1 million in fiscal year 2005.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: The bill would authorize the creation of a new federal building (and site for the building) near a federally funded series of gamma ray telescopes.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Paul S. Teller, paul.teller@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-9718

H.R. 4011—North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (Leach)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 21st, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4011 authorizes funding for assistance to North Koreans and to organizations promoting human rights in North Korea.

Title I—Promoting the Human Rights of North Koreans

- Authorizes the President to make grants to private, non-profit organizations to support programs that promote human rights, democracy, rule of law, and the development of a market economy in North Korea. Authorizes \$2 million for each of fiscal years 2005-2008.
- Expresses the sense of Congress that U.S. support of radio broadcasts in North Korea should be increased.
- Authorizes the President to take “such actions as may be necessary” to increase the availability inside North Korea of information not controlled by the North Korean government. Authorizes \$2 million for each of fiscal years 2005-2008.
- Urges actions by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

Title II—Assisting North Koreans in Need

- Authorizes the President to provide assistance, including in the form of grants, to the World Food Program and to U.S. non-governmental organizations to provide humanitarian assistance to North Koreans. Authorizes \$100 million for each of fiscal years 2005-2008.
- Prohibits any department, agency, or entity of the U.S. Government from providing humanitarian or non-humanitarian assistance to any department, agency, or entity of the

Government of North Korea unless certain conditions are met. The President may issue a waiver of this prohibition if it is in the national security interest of the United States.

- Authorizes the President to provide assistance to support organizations or persons that provide humanitarian or legal assistance to North Koreans who are outside of North Korea without the permission of the Government of North Korea. Authorizes \$20 million for each of the fiscal years 2005-2008.

Title III—Protecting North Korean Refugees

- Requires the Secretary of State to submit a report to Congress on the situation of North Korean refugees and explains the U.S. policy toward North Korean refugees and defectors.
- Designates North Koreans refugees who have been persecuted as a “Priority 2 group of special concern,” which exempts them from referral by the U.N. Human Rights Commission.
- Allows the Secretary to consider parole (entry into the U.S. without a visa) for North Korean refugees on the basis of “compelling reasons in the public interest.”
- Allows North Koreans admitted or paroled into the U.S. to apply to adjust their legal status to permanent resident after residing in the U.S. for one year. Only those individuals who apply for status adjustment within 18 months of entry, are eligible to receive an immigrant visa, and have cooperated with the U.S. government would be eligible.
- Allows North Koreans currently in the U.S. to be eligible for temporary protection status, which would allow them to stay and work in the U.S. until the human rights situation in North Korea improves and it is removed from the list of state sponsors of terrorism.
- Allows North Korean applicants for asylum in the U.S. to obtain employment.

The bill also includes a variety of findings noting the human rights violations in North Korea, including religious persecution, forced abortion, trafficking of women and girls, and abduction of dissidents.

Committee Action: H.R. 4011 was introduced on March 23, 2004, and referred to the Committees on International Relations and Judiciary. The Committee on International Relations approved the bill, amended, by unanimous consent on March 31. The Judiciary Committee discharged the bill on July 16.

Cost to Taxpayers: The Congressional Budget Office estimates that H.R. 4011 would authorize the appropriation of \$124 million each year over the 2005-2008 period, subject to appropriations (\$496 million total)

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: The bill authorizes new activities to promote the human rights of and provide assistance to North Koreans.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee on International Relations, in House Report 108-478, cites Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (“necessary and proper”).

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630

H.Res. 652—Urging the Government of the Republic of Belarus to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for its parliamentary elections in the fall of 2004 (Bereuter)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 21st, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Res. 652 resolves that the House:

- “(1) looks forward to the development of cordial relations between the United States and the Republic of Belarus;
- “(2) emphasizes that a precondition for the integration of Belarus into the Western community of nations is its establishment of a genuinely democratic political system;
- “(3) expresses its strong and continuing support for the efforts of the Belarusian people to establish a full democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights in Belarus;
- “(4) urges the Government of Belarus to guarantee freedom of association and assembly, including the right of candidates, members of political parties, and others to freely assemble, to organize and conduct public events, and to exercise these and other rights free from intimidation or harassment by local or national officials or others acting at their behest;
- “(5) urges the Government of Belarus to meet its Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) commitments on democratic elections;
- “(6) urges the Belarusian authorities to ensure--
 - (A) the full transparency of election procedures before, during, and after the 2004 parliamentary elections;
 - (B) free access for Belarusian and international election observers;
 - (C) multiparty representation on all election commissions;
 - (D) unimpeded access by all parties and candidates to print, radio, television, and Internet media on a non-discriminatory basis;
 - (E) freedom of candidates, members of opposition parties, and independent media organizations from intimidation or harassment by government officials at all levels via selective tax audits and other regulatory procedures, and in the case of media, license revocations and libel suits, among other measures;
 - (F) a transparent process for complaint and appeals through electoral commissions and within the court system that provides timely and effective remedies; and
 - (G) vigorous prosecution of any individual or organization responsible for violations of election laws or regulations, including the application of appropriate administrative or criminal penalties;
- “(7) further calls upon the Government of Belarus to guarantee election monitors from the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), other participating States of the OSCE, Belarusian political parties, candidates' representatives,

nongovernmental organizations, and other private institutions and organizations, both foreign and domestic, unobstructed access to all aspects of the election process, including unimpeded access to public campaign events, candidates, news media, voting, and post-election tabulation of results and processing of election challenges and complaints; “(8) encourages the international community, including the Council of Europe, the OSCE, and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, to continue their efforts to support democracy in Belarus and urges countries such as Lithuania and other Baltic countries and Nordic countries to continue to provide assistance to nongovernmental organizations and other Belarusian organizations involved in promoting democracy and fair elections in Belarus; and

“(9) pledges its support to the Belarusian people, their commitment to a fully free and open democratic system, their creation of a prosperous free market economy, and their country's assumption of its rightful place as a full and equal member of the Western community of democracies.”

Additional Background: Parliamentary elections will take place in Belarus this fall. Previous parliamentary elections in Belarus have not fully met international standards.

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on May 20, 2004, and referred to the Committee on International Relations. The Subcommittee on Europe approved the bill by voice vote on June 16 and the full International Relations Committee agreed to seek consideration of the bill under suspension of the rules on June 24.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize any expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630

H.R. 4660 — To amend the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 to extend the authority to provide assistance to countries seeking to become eligible countries for purposes of that Act (*Lantos*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 21, 2004, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4660 would amend the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7715), to permanently authorize 10% of foreign aid assistance under the Act to countries that fail to meet the Act's criteria. When the MCA passed the House last year, it included a provision that allowed up to 10% of the funds *for one-year only*, fiscal year 2004, to go to a country that “demonstrates a significant commitment to meet...but fails to meet,” the requirements for funding laid out in the act. Under H.R. 4660, countries that **fail to meet the following**

requirements to be eligible for MCA funding, but commit to them nonetheless, will be eligible for up to 10% of the MCA foreign aid funding:

A country shall demonstrate a commitment to:

“(1) just and democratic governance, including a demonstrated commitment to--

- promote political pluralism, equality, and the rule of law;
- respect human and civil rights, including the rights of people with disabilities;
- protect private property rights;
- encourage transparency and accountability of government; and
- combat corruption;

“(2) economic freedom, including a demonstrated commitment to economic policies that--

- encourage citizens and firms to participate in global trade and international capital markets;
- promote private sector growth and the sustainable management of natural resources;
- strengthen market forces in the economy; and
- respect worker rights, including the right to form labor unions; and

“(3) investments in the people of such country, particularly women and children, including programs that--

- promote broad-based primary education; and
- strengthen and build capacity to provide quality public health and reduce child mortality.”

Committee Action: H.R. 4660 was introduced on April 24, 2004, and referred to the House Committee on International Relations, which by unanimous consent agreed to seek consideration under suspension of the rules.

Cost to Taxpayers: While the bill does not list a cost, the FY04 MCA appropriation was \$994 million and the House-passed FY05 appropriation was \$1.25 billion (\$1.25 billion below the request), while the Senate-introduced FY05 bill is \$2 billion. Ten percent of the FY04 funds was \$99.4 million, and 10% of \$1.25 billion is \$125 million. The MCA authorization bill authorized this new foreign aid program at \$1.3 billion for FY04, \$3 billion for FY05, and \$5 billion for FY06.

CBO notes that though the bill might affect individual countries, it does not increase the overall authorization of the Millennium Challenge Act. Though it should be noted that by allocated

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: The bill will allow countries that do not meet the requirements of a new foreign aid program, to qualify for up to 10% of the funds, nonetheless, as long as they make a commitment to the principles. While this does not expand the existing authorization, it does modify its intent.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: An International Relations report citing authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Sheila Moloney; sheila.moloney@mail.house.gov; (202) 226-9719.

**H.Con.Res. 418—Recognizing the importance in history of the 150th
anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United
States and Japan (*Lantos*)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 21st, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 418 resolves that Congress:

“(1) recognizes the importance in history of the 150th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Japan; and

“(2) calls for expanded political, economic, strategic, and cultural ties between the Japanese and American people and their respective governments.”

Additional Background: Commodore Matthew Perry and Japanese representatives signed the first bilateral treaty between the U.S. and Japan, the Treaty of Peace and Amity between Japan and the United States, on March 31, 1854, in Yokohama, Japan.

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on May 6, 2004, and referred to the Committee on International Relations. On June 24, 2004, the Committee agreed to seek consideration of the bill under suspension of the rules by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize any expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630

**H.Con.Res. 436—Celebrating 10 years of majority rule in the Republic of
South Africa (*Payne*)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 21st, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 436 resolves that Congress:

“(1) applauds the Republic of South Africa for the remarkable transition to a democratic government and the tremendous progress achieved during 10 years of majority rule;

“(2) looks forward to a continued partnership with South Africa focused on a sustained commitment to the health of South Africans; and
“(3) anticipates continued social development and economic growth in South Africa.”

Additional Background: The Republic of South Africa peacefully and successfully held democratic elections and transitioned to a democratic, nonracial form of government in 1994. The resolution notes various social and economic improvements since 1994, including increased secondary school enrollment, consistent GDP growth, and increased tourism.

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on May 20, 2004, and referred to the Committee on International Relations. On June 24, 2004, the Committee agreed to seek consideration of the bill under suspension of the rules by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize any expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630

H.Con.Res. 469—Condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994 (Ros-Lehtinen)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 21st, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 469 resolves that Congress:

“(1) reiterates its strongest condemnation of the 1994 attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and honors the victims of this heinous act;

“(2) expresses its sympathy to the relatives of the victims, who have waited ten years without justice for the loss of their loved ones, and may have to wait even longer for justice to be served;

“(3) underscores the concern of the United States regarding the continuing, decade-long delay in the proper resolution of this case;

“(4) strongly urges the Government of Argentina to continue to dedicate and provide the resources necessary for its judicial system and intelligence agencies to investigate all areas of the AMIA case, including by implementing Argentine President Nestor Kirchner's executive order mandating the opening of the archives of Argentina's Secretariat for State Intelligence (SIDE), and to prosecute with due haste those who are responsible for the bombing;

“(5) calls upon the international community to cooperate fully with the investigation, including by making information, witnesses, and suspects available for review and questioning by the appropriate Argentine authorities;

“(6) encourages the President to direct United States law enforcement agencies to provide support and cooperation to the Government of Argentina, if requested, for the purposes of deepening and expanding the investigation into this bombing and suspected activities in support of terrorism in the Tri-Border area where the borders of Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil meet;

“(7) encourages the President to direct the United States Representative to the Organization of American States (OAS) to--

(A) seek support from OAS member countries for the creation of a special task force of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism to assist, as requested by the Government of Argentina, in the investigation of all aspects of the 1994 AMIA terrorist attack; and

(B) urge OAS member countries to designate Hizballah as a terrorist organization if they have not already done so;

“(8) stresses the need for international pressure on Iran and Syria to extradite for trial individuals and government officials who are accused of planning or perpetrating the AMIA attack, and to immediately, unconditionally, and permanently cease any and all assistance to terrorists; and

“(9) desires a lasting, warm relationship between the United States and Argentina which is built, in part, on mutual abhorrence of terrorism and commitments to peace, stability, and democracy in the Western Hemisphere.”

Additional Background: On July 18, 1994, 85 innocent people were killed and 300 were wounded when the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association (AMIA) was bombed in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Considerable evidence links the attacks to the terrorist group Hizballah, which is based in Lebanon, supported by Syria, and sponsored by Iran. In March 2003, an Argentine judge issued arrest warrants for four Iranian government officials who are believed to have been involved in planning or carrying out the attack: Ali Fallahian, a former minister of security and intelligence; Mohsen Rabbani, a former cultural attaché at the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires; Ali Balesh-Abadi, an Iranian diplomat; and Ali Akbar Parvaresh, a former minister of education.

Committee Action: The resolution was introduced on July 6, 2004, and referred to the Committee on International Relations, which did not consider the bill.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize any expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Staff Contact: Lisa Bos, lisa.bos@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-1630

###

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.